

From: j m
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/21/01 2:26pm
Subject: proposed MS private antitrust settlement

This e-mail is in regard to the proposed settlement in the Microsoft private antitrust lawsuits, as mentioned in the 11/20/01 Seattle Times
(http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/134368881_microsoft20w.html)

I find it more than a bit ironic that Michael Hausfeld feels the best way to settle these private antitrust lawsuits against Microsoft is to seed "the nation's poorest schools" with Microsoft products, thus exposing students to (some might say forcing the students to use) the very software that is considered so ubiquitous as to be a monopoly.

To me, that is analogous to punishing the tobacco companies by forcing them to give away their products to children too young to know the difference. While I admit that is overstating the health repercussions, I don't think it is overstating the financial ones.

A more original, and effective, solution would be to force Microsoft to donate \$1 billion in Apple hardware and software, or better yet open source software such as Linux. Then again, since open source software is free, that would cost Microsoft nothing but the minds and pocketbooks of the next generation.

I can only hope that this proposed settlement is discarded by the Justice Department and/or judge on the case.

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